

## "A Look at Historic Preservation"

By Louis C. Jones

Does all this fuss and feathers about old buildings that are outdated and have served their original purpose really matter, or is it just an outlet for neurotic antiquarians on the local committee who want to bask in the reflected glory of their pioneer ancestors? In the world of shopping centers, high-speed thruways, and decentralized industries, of what earthly use is the old brick mansion, redolent of yesterday, which occupies the best possible site in town for a gas station? We can't stand in the way of progress, can we?

The answer, of course, is "no". There are times when the house should come down and the gas station should go up. But progress goes from some place to some place, and if we would know where we are and where we are going, we must also keep a few points on the chart to indicate where we have been. Out of this knowledge should come a valuable kind of personal security such as a child is given in a loving home, or such as come to those who find peace in one of the historic religions.

**THE PAST SHOULD HAVE AS MANY** personal ties for each of us as possible, for none should feel that he is floating in time, rootless and unrelated to all that has happened to our fathers and those who lived in our place before us. To feel a part of the progression of mankind is to enter into full citizenship in the race of men. In the framework of the home let there be hand-me-downs from yesterday—pictures and furniture or a piece of lace from the country or the trunk that landed at Ellis Island. Things that have been in a family a long time have a magic of their own, asserting the values of life and its survival.

So it is with each village and city. They, too, need focal points of affection, of the historic community spirit. The variety of these places can and should be numberless, each suited to its own history and people. In a very real sense these should be shrines where the spiritual values of our people are cherished and nourished. In a land where few of us live in the town where we were born there is an ever greater need to create a sense of identity and belonging for those who come from elsewhere. If we have to make this consciously rather than receive it as a birthright, well and good, let us do so as truthfully and skillfully as possible.

**GIVEN A HISTORIC HOUSE THAT HAS** meaning for a specific town, what are we to do? Put back the original furniture, reproduce the wallpaper, train a guide in costume, and do a historically complete job of recreating life as it was once lived? Yes, if we can do that well we also make the house into an active, functioning part of community life, constantly interpreting as many sides of the past as possible in terms the people of today can understand.

And if this is impossible, shall we do nothing? Shall we tear it down and build the gas station? I'm for trying a lot of other possibilities first. Civic organizations or individuals can be encouraged to buy it, making what changes they must, but actually preserving it.

# How Can the Stakehouse Be Saved?

On July 11, 1964, the Board of Trustees of the Utah State Historical Society - an agency of state government, presided over by a ten-man board appointed by the governor—went on record opposing the demolition of the Wasatch Stakehouse. As director of the Society I was instructed by the Board to work for the preservation of this historic building.

Carrying out this mandate, I have contacted church leaders, political officers, and citizens groups - all of whom have expressed a desire to see the building preserved. Apparently, the citizenry of Heber Valley need to be awakened to their responsibilities and the avenues open to them to save their precious building.

**WITH THE** possible exception of the Puritan settlements of New England, the large scale religious colonization of Utah by the Mormons is unique in all of United States history. At no other place in our country was religion the motivating force which prompted settle-

ment to the extent that it was in Utah.

Heber Valley is typical of the communities resulting from the Mormon dedication to the ideal that man should be permitted to worship according to the dictates of his own conscience.

**THE PRICE OUR** Mormon pioneers paid to put this ideal into practice was a tremendous one - deaths, wanderings, mob violence, isolation, suffering, hunger, and hard work and more hard work.

However, the fruits of all this are to be seen around us every day. But perhaps the outstanding symbols representing the idealism, the industry, the greatness of these pioneer forefathers are to be found in the beautiful old churches and stake tabernacles erected by the Mormon. At a price in labor and sacrifice far beyond what we would be willing to pay today, these community founders and builders constructed "tabernacles" to the God they worshipped in a style and of a quality designed to last through

generations if not centuries.

**UNFORTUNATELY, SOME** of us have lost the feeling, the idealism, and maybe even the spirituality of our ancestors. We think not of building for generations or centuries but of buildings to be replaced every few years. Perhaps this thinking is what is wrong with our society today - where so many of our policies and institutions are expediences to be cast aside for new, glistening promises of better things.

Surely, the people of Heber Valley can see in their beautiful old stakehouse the hopes and aspirations, the struggling and sacrifice the idealism of their forefathers who literally carved out of a wilderness area a civilization and institutions which we presently enjoy. Surely the people of Heber Valley are not so unaware of these things that they are going to permit the one outstanding and remaining symbol of all this be torn down to be replaced by some modern glass and steel structure that may be functional but uninspiring. Surely the people of Heber Valley are not so devoid of history, not so unfeeling toward their grandparents, not so unaware of the aesthetic qualities of the beautiful, red sandstone Stakehouse that they want to tear it down.

**DO NOT BE GUILTY** of the same lethargy and unconcern for what is taking place as were the people of Salt Lake who let the old Salt Lake Theatre, the Social Hall, the old County Court house, and other buildings be demolished; later to have regrets and try to correct the error with replicas.

Aside from these enumerated considerations, the people of Heber Valley must be aware of the

economic value of this historic landmark. Tourism is big business throughout the nation - with millions being spent to attract and hold tourists to our scenic spots. Heber is richly endowed with attractions tourists want to enjoy. The Utah Parks and Recreation Commission is spending a major portion of its budget on the development of Wasatch State Park - most of which lies at your doorstep. The Stakehouse is a compliment to this development. It gives flavor to your valley. It invites people to stop, look and spend.

**THESE CONSIDERATIONS** should not be overlooked. Communities and organizations throughout America are capitalizing on tourism. Whole towns have been reconstructed and restored to draw the tourist dollar. The Rockefeller Foundation has spent more than \$73 million on the restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia.

Even the Mormon Church is aware of the value of preservation and restoration. Thousands of dollars have been expended on restoring the Beehive House and dismantling and reconstructing the old Salt Lake City Building - making it the show place on Capitol Hill. In Nauvoo, the Church is committed to a rebuilding and restoration program which will run into the millions of dollars. Surely, to the people of Heber Valley and Utahns generally, the Wasatch Stakehouse holds as much significance.

**IN AN INTERVIEW** with Stake President J Harold Call, Mr. Call said to me he would be the happiest man in the world if some way could be found to preserve the Stakehouse. Mr. Call expressed the identical sentiment I have found among every group and every in-

dividual I have contacted in your valley.

It is such a simple matter to make President Call happy as well as others whom I have contacted. Those who want the building preserved, need only to raise their voices so that the mistaken impression is drowned out that the people of Heber Valley want the Stakehouse replaced. Somehow, the impression is fixed in a few people's minds that the citizens and LDS Church members of Wasatch Stake want the building replaced. I have not discovered any such evidence of this sentiment - not even by President Call who said he would be happy if it could be preserved.

**THROUGH UNITED AND** determined action, the people of Heber Valley can get what they want - namely the preservation of the one building in the Valley which has historical, architectural, and aesthetic significance to the people of Heber Valley, Utah, and America.

If you believe in these ideas expressed by me, if you want your Stakehouse saved, you, through individual and united action can save it by making your feelings known to your church leaders and your political leaders who have expressed their concern over the proposed demolition of this monument to your pioneer ancestors.

The people of Heber Valley have less than a month to act before your Stakehouse comes down. Please take the time and effort to join with the Utah Historical Society in the preservation of the Wasatch Stakehouse.

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# Stake House: Pioneer



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And if this is impossible, shall we do nothing? Shall we tear it down and build the gas station? I'm for trying a lot of other possibilities first. Civic organizations or individuals can be encouraged to buy it, making what changes they must, but actually preserving the exterior; there are values for a child on his way to school just in knowing that this house stood on this same site when his great-grandfather was a boy, even if that grandsire lived far across the sea.

**BETWEEN THE FULLY REVITALIZED** historic house, which is currently our ideal, and the preservation of the architectural shell, which is the least we can hope for, there are hundreds of possible compromises any one of which might be the solution for a specific community.

This raises the question of whether bad preservation is better than no preservation at all. Strongly as I believe in scholarly standards of research and veracity of presentation for historic houses—and I consider these of vital importance—yet I must admit that there are times when a holding operation is better than destruction; time itself may produce workable solutions. I can think of a number of historic houses which, twenty years ago, were just being held together physically; a growing public interest and new concepts of historical preservation have made these into vital forces for the best kind of interpretation of community tradition.

**FINALLY, WHAT SHALL WE SAVE?** Frankly, I'm getting a little bored with the lengthening list of handsome residences of the "best people". We need to preserve buildings that speak directly to those of us whose families had calouses, as well as to those who had can. It's a fine thing to exhibit the aesthetic best out of the past. It can be equally important to interpret the ways men and women worked and created and played. I want to see more gun shops, millineries schoolhouses, covered bridges, taverns, foundries preserved for our people. Let's speak to Americans in terms that add meaning to their own everyday lives, that place their jobs, their responsibilities as citizens and parents, in historic context so that they see their present problems not as exceptions, but as continuations of the challenges faced by their forefathers.

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Feeling that there are considerations far beyond the mere dollar and cents value being placed on the property and replacement of the beautiful old Stakehouse, we petition those individuals in authority to act to reconsider their decision in the light of other factors, namely:

- (1) That a restored stakehouse would serve the religious needs of this valley by offering a suitable chapel for both Wards and the Stake.
- (2) This restoration could be undertaken as economically as the building a chapel for the new 'Stake Center.'
- (3) The restored Stakehouse would continue to be the number one architectural attraction of Heber Valley - serving not only the religious needs of the community but serving as a reminder of the accomplishments of a pioneer society which was willing to work and sacrifice for those things held to be sacred and important.
- (4) That should it be absolutely determined that the Stakehouse is unwanted for religious purposes, that other avenues be explored for its preservation such as public donation.

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# Stake House: Pioneer Memorial to Hardship

## Stakehouse Is Part Of Utah Pioneer Early History ...

Today, when a great deal of interest is being shown in early American and early Western American History, artifacts, furniture and buildings and other aspects of our heritage, we should be extremely careful with the monuments of this important era. Especially is this true in Utah where that great drama of the Mormon Pioneer was carried forth with the colonization and development of this state over the fifty years from 1847 until the turn of the century. Because of the importance of this Era in our state history, many of the buildings which had been allowed to fall into disrepair or which had been torn down have now been rebuilt and restored at great expense be-

Several expeditions of settlers crossed and recrossed Utah, but it was not until 1856 or 1857 that two men who had climbed the ridge of what was called Bonanza Flats, discovered Heber Valley.

In 1858 it was considered wise by those in authority to appoint scouts to explore this valley for possibilities of settlement. The plan was for them to bring their cattle into Heber Valley in the summer of 1858. With sickle and scythe they were to harvest sufficient wild hay to feed the cattle through the winter of 1858-59. And they did.

**27 YEARS AFTER THE** first hopeful pioneers entered the valley the need was felt for a Stake Tabernacle and under the leadership of President Abram Hatch and with hard work and much sacrifice on the part of the members a beautiful edifice was constructed.

The red sandstone was quarried by hand from the mountains east of Heber in Lake Creek and the cost of the building was more than \$20,000.

Tabernacle could be incorporated into the plans for a new stake center.

Recently, we visited the much-talked about Tabernacle in Brigham City and observed that the exterior was no more beautiful nor more unique in its architecture. Yet because the interior was so beautifully preserved and cared for the people are proud to display it to everyone. Thousands of tourists are attracted to this building every year and therefore it fulfills a missionary purpose.

**IF OUR TABERNACLE** were restored there would be a striking resemblance to the interior of the one in Brigham City except that the seating capacity of 1500 or 1600 would be 300 more than in Brigham City.

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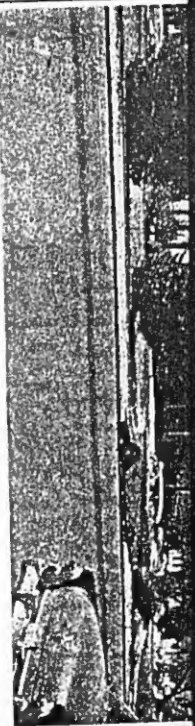
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People need places out of their past which they can see and understand and ultimately love, that symbolize those who lived in these places before them, and struggled and suffered and built there. If those men and women could face and solve their problems, so can we. We need such refuges all over the land, as we need churches and schools, that they may be seedbeds for the cultivation of a vigorous and informed love of country.

## State Park Head Asks Consideration to Save Historic Wasatch Stake Tabernacle

Dear President Call:

The news has come to me that it is being proposed that the Stake house in the center of Heber City be torn down and be replaced by



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- (2) This restoration could be undertaken as economically as the building a chapel for the new 'Stake Center.'
- (3) The restored Stakehouse would continue to be the number one architectural attraction of Heber Valley - serving not only the religious needs of the community but serving as a reminder of the accomplishments of a pioneer society which was willing to work and sacrifice for those things held to be sacred and important.
- (4) That should it be absolutely determined that the Stakehouse is unwanted for religious purposes, that other avenues be explored for its preservation such as public donation.

## Architect Seeks Answers to Preserve Wasatch Tabernacle for Historical Value

The old Tabernacle at Heber is considerations which have led to a heritage left by a vigorous, the present decision to demolish resourceful pioneer community. It was built by the hard work and sacrifice of the community members. It constitutes a very real and tangible tie to the past—a bridge between generations. Through it we may be stimulated to reconstruct their lives that we may learn by comparison learn if the great truths so evident to them and so influential in their lives are equally effective in our own.

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This settlement of the State of Deseret is thought of by many as the last of the Great Western Frontier eras. Of this part of our heritage we are justly proud in the State of Utah.

**NOW THAT THE** continued existence of the Heber Tabernacle seems to be in jeopardy for economic reasons, it would seem incumbent upon this generation to be very thoughtful and resourceful to see that this monument, this beautiful and picturesque building be kept to grace its important location in Heber.

This building built between 1887 and 1889 is surely one of the fine examples of the Architecture of Utah of its time in the United States.

Several expeditions of settlers crossed and recrossed Utah, but it was not until 1856 or 1857 that two men who had climbed the ridge of what was called Bonanza Flats, discovered Heber Valley. In 1858 it was considered wise by those in authority to appoint scouts to explore this valley for possibilities of settlement. The plan was for them to bring their cattle into Heber Valley in the summer of 1858. With sickle and scythe they were to harvest sufficient wild hay to feed the cattle through the winter of 1858-59. And they did.

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The red sandstone was quarried by hand from the mountains east of Heber in Lake Creek and the cost of the building was more than \$30,000.

At the dedication ceremony, May 5, 1889, the largest number of people ever congregated in Heber at one time were present to hear Elder Francis M. Lyman of the Council of the Twelve who was here for the occasion. According to the Wasatch Wave published on May 11, there were 1300 persons present with room for 200 more.

**CAN ANY SACRIFICE** we might make to restore this building to its original form and beauty, modified to fit the needs of our modern way of life, compare with the sacrifice the pioneers made to build it? We feel that the old

Stakehouse could be incorporated into the plans for a new stake center.

Recently, we visited the much-talked about Tabernacle in Brigham City and observed that the exterior was no more beautiful nor more unique in its architecture. Yet because the interior was so beautifully preserved and cared for it to everyone. Thousands of tourists are attracted to this building every year and therefore it fulfills a missionary purpose.

**IF OUR TABERNACLE** were restored there would be a striking resemblance to the interior of the one in Brigham City except that the seating capacity of 1500 or 1600 would be 300 more than in Brigham City.

President Call has stated on numerous occasions that he would be happy if a plan could be worked out for saving this building. If enough people would support President Call in this desire, we were assured by Bishop Vandenburg that it could be saved. The wishes of the majority are never ignored.

**THE ONLY DETRIMENT** to restoring this building seems to be the cost, but if we let this building be destroyed because of the dollars it would take to restore it we would be selling our birthright for a mess of pottage.

A petition will be circulated to give you your last opportunity to save the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle. A copy of this petition appears on this page. Please read it carefully and sign when you are contacted.

**COMMUNITY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE WASATCH STAKE TABERNACLE**

## RESOLUTION

People need places out of their past which they can see and understand and ultimately love that symbolize those who lived in these places before them, and struggled and suffered and built there. If those men and women could face and solve their problems, so can we. We need such refuges all over the land, as we need churches and is, that they may be seedbeds for the cultivation of a vigorous and need love of country.

## State Park Head Asks Consideration to Save Historic Wasatch Stake Tabernacle

Dear President Call:

The news has come to me that it is being proposed that the Stake house in the center of Heber City be torn down and be replaced by a new stake house. I am wondering if adequate thought has been given to the historic value of this building. Actually, it occurs to me that very serious consideration should be given to preserving this building as a historic landmark for the Church, Heber City and Wasatch County.

In my extensive traveling thru-out the United States and other countries, it amazes me of the importance that is placed on old buildings, historic sites, and various items that bear out history and what it means to the economy of the area. Everywhere you travel you find that historic preservation means considerable to the tourists and to the people of the area.

It is possible that Heber City could well afford another location for your new building, and possibly this building could remain as a historic landmark to the pioneers, to the church, to Heber City and Wasatch County. In this way, the final and ultimate results could still be obtained. I would recommend that you give serious consideration to this and possibly reconsider your decision and analyze what this decision may mean to your future.

In our historic restorations in the State Park program, which includes the Brigham Young Home at St. George, the Jacob Hamblin Home at Santa Clara, and the

preservation such as public donation.

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What is the case for its preservation? We cannot keep all of our pioneer structures. It is not reasonable nor beneficial that we live solely on the works of the past nor to depend upon them too heavily. We must ourselves contribute to our communities. It is essential that we establish a justifiable balance between that which is kept and that which must be replaced. Many of our older structures are inadequate, unsafe or unhealthy. To determine whether a building should be retained, many questions must be answered. A few suggest themselves, immediately.

1. Is the structure sound in its materials and construction?
  2. Can the building be maintained without unreasonable expense?
  3. Can a use be established which will be economically sound and consonant with the purpose for which the building was originally constructed?
  4. Is the value of the building to the community—its place as an outstanding landmark—its association with the important historic events and trends generally recognized?
  5. Is the design outstanding, unique, of exceptional merit and worthy of retention as an example of high quality in pioneer craftsmanship?
- One not closely familiar with the

TOB DOWN HAVE NOW BEEN RECOVERED and restored at great expense because of the values to be obtained by so doing.

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NOW THAT THE continued existence of the Heber Tabernacle seems to be in jeopardy for economic reasons, it would seem incumbent upon this generation to be very thoughtful and resourceful to see that this monument, this beautiful and picturesque building be kept to grace its important location in Heber.

This building built between 1887 and 1889 is surely one of the fine examples of the Architecture of Utah, of its time in the United States as a whole and particularly of Utah and New England. This building remains as an outstanding work. This building speaks well of the people of Heber, or Provo Valley as it was known in those days, who built to embody the best of the technical knowledge, skills and materials available to them and which has very admirably served the function for which this building was designed and dedicated and continued to serve well for its intended use.

THIS BUILDING CALLS to mind the best of the building tradition in Utah during the early history of the church, in New England during this period and earlier period, and in some respects calls to mind some of the old churches in Scotland by the carpentry in Gothic detail, the stoner buttresses, and the use of stone and other architectural details. It remains as a fine example of architecture in which the people of Heber and the State of Utah can take pride. Surely this is an outstanding building having more character, dignity and beauty than some of the newer buildings in Heber and in other portions of the state.

IN ADDITION TO THE preservation of our heritage, the development of tourism in the state and the desire of many of the people

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## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the undersigned county and municipalities believe that it will be to the cultural and social advantage of this area if the historical and revered Wasatch Stake Tabernacle is restored and preserved, and

WHEREAS historical monuments of this kind materially assist future generations to develop and retain a better understanding of their religious, cultural and social backgrounds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the respective governmental boards of Wasatch County, Heber City, Town of Midway and Town of Charleston, that the people of this area be urged to support and assist all efforts being made to restore and preserve our historical and beloved Wasatch Stake Tabernacle.

Dated this 13th day of August, 1964.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WASATCH COUNTY  
By [ss]WALTER MONTGOMERY, Chairman

CITY COUNCIL OF HEBER CITY  
By [ss]R. N. JACOLETTI, Mayor

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TOWN OF MIDWAY  
By [ss]EARL J. KOHLER, Board President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TOWN OF CHARLESTON  
By [ss] [Name], Board President



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Dear President Call:

The news has come to me that it is being proposed that the Stake house in the center of Heber City be torn down and be replaced by a new stake house. I am wondering if adequate thought has been given to the historic value of this building. Actually, it occurs to me that very serious consideration should be given to preserving this building as a historic landmark for the Church, Heber City and Wasatch County.

In my extensive traveling thru-out the United States and other countries, it amazes me of the importance that is placed on old buildings, historic sites, and various items that bear out history and what it means to the economy of the area. Everywhere you travel you find that historic preservation means considerable to the tourists and to the people of the area.

It is possible that Heber City could well afford another location for your new building, and possibly this building could remain as a historic landmark to the pioneers, to the church, to Heber City and Wasatch County. In this way, the final and ultimate results could still be obtained. I would recommend that you give serious consideration to this and possibly reconsider your decision and analyze what this decision may mean to your future.

In our historic restorations in the State Park program, which includes the Brigham Young Home at St. George, the Jacob Hamblin Home at Santa Clara, and the

## Architect Seeks Answers to Preserve Wasatch Tabernacle for Historical Value

The old Tabernacle at Heber is a heritage left by a vigorous, resourceful pioneer community. It was built by the hard work and sacrifice of the community members. It constitutes a very real and tangible tie to the past—a bridge between generations. Through it we may be stimulated to reconstruct their lives if the great truths so evident to them and so influential in their lives are equally effective in our own.

What is the case for its preservation?

We cannot keep all of our pioneer structures. It is not reasonable nor beneficial that we live solely on the works of the past nor depend upon them too heavily. We must ourselves contribute to our communities. It is essential that we establish a justifiable balance between that which is kept and that which must be replaced. Many of our older structures are inadequate, unsafe or unhealthy. To determine whether a building should be retained, many questions must be answered. A few suggest themselves immediately.

1. Is the structure sound in its materials and construction?
  2. Can the building be maintained without unreasonable expense?
  3. Can a use be established which will be economically sound and consonant with the purpose for which the building was originally constructed?
  4. Is the value of the building to the community—its place as an outstanding landmark—its association with the important historic events and trends generally recognized?
  5. Is the design outstanding, unique, of exceptional merit and worthy of retention as an example of high quality in pioneer craftsmanship?
- One not closely familiar with the

considerations which have led to the present decision to demolish the building, cannot commend or criticize the answers to the above questions reached by those who are responsible for the building's future.

Because of the circumstances of present ownership and use, the ultimate question can only be answered by the citizens of Heber City and Wasatch County.

Does the old Tabernacle have a sufficient cultural and religious significance to the community and particularly to the individual citizens of the community to motivate the expenditure of funds needed to properly restore and maintain the building, and the ingenuity to develop a continued use?

Does there exist a strength of desire in the hearts of the people to keep this irreplaceable heritage? Those in the state who hope that each pioneer community will retain some monument to give future generations the thrill of immediate contact with their pioneer past, are eagerly awaiting the decision and stand ready to assist where and when called upon.

FRED L. MARKHAM,  
Preservation Officer, Utah  
Chapter of American  
Institute of Architects.  
(Committee on Preservation of  
Historic Buildings)

## Get Behind the Drive to Preserve Our Tabernacle

torn down have now been removed and restored at great expense because of the values to be obtained by so doing.

This settlement of the State of Deseret is thought of by many as the last of the Great Western Frontier era. Of this part of our heritage we are justly proud in the State of Utah.

NOW THAT THE continued existence of the Heber Tabernacle seems to be in jeopardy for economic reasons, it would seem incumbent upon this generation to be very thoughtful and resourceful to see that this monument, this beautiful and picturesque building be kept to grace its important location in Heber.

This building built between 1887 and 1889 is surely one of the fine examples of the Architecture of Utah, of its time in the United States as a whole and particularly of Utah and New England. This building remains as an outstanding work. This building speaks well of the people of Heber, or Provo Valley as it was known in those days, who built to embody the best of the technical knowledge, skills and materials, available to them and which has very admirably served the function for which this building was designed and dedicated and continued to serve well for its intended use.

THIS BUILDING CALLS to mind the best of the building tradition in Utah during the early history of the church, in New England during this period and earlier period, and in some respects calls to mind some of the old churches in Scotland by the carpentry in Gothic detail, the steeper buttresses, and the use of stone, and other architectural details. It remains as a fine example of architecture in which the people of Heber and the State of Utah can take pride. Surely this is an outstanding building having more character, dignity and beauty than some of the newer buildings in Heber and in other portions of the state.

IN ADDITION TO THE preservation of our heritage, the development of tourism in the state and the desire of many of the people

cost of the building was more than \$30,000.

At the dedication ceremony, May 5, 1889, the largest number of people ever congregated in Heber at one time were present to hear Elder Francis M. Lyman of the Council of the Twelve who was here for the occasion. According to the Wasatch Wave published on May 11, there were 1300 persons present with room for 200 more.

CAN ANY SACRIFICE we might make to restore this building to its original form and beauty, modified to fit the needs of our modern way of life, compare with the sacrifice the pioneers made to build it? We feel that the old

that it could be saved. The wishes of the majority are never ignored. THE ONLY DETRIMENT to restoring this building seems to be the cost, but if we let this building be destroyed because of the cost, it would take to restore it we would be selling our birthright for a mess of pottage.

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the undersigned county and municipalities believe that it will be to the cultural and social advantage of this area if the historical and revered Wasatch Stake Tabernacle is restored and preserved, and

WHEREAS historical monuments of this kind materially assist future generations to develop and retain a better understanding of their religious, cultural and social backgrounds.

Dated this 13th day of August, 1964.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
WASATCH COUNTY  
By [ss]WALTER MONTGOMERY,  
Chairman

CITY COUNCIL OF HEBER CITY  
By [ss]R. N. JACOLETT,  
Mayor

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
TOWN OF MIDWAY  
By [ss]EARL J. KOHLER,  
Board President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
TOWN OF CHARLESTON  
By [ss] [Name],  
Board President

## Utahns, Inc. Ask Stake House Preservation

Recently the executive committee of Utahns Inc. were informed of plans to demolish the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle in Heber. Members of the committee were quite concerned over the imminent loss of this distinguished example of 19th century architecture and instructed me to convey their concern to President Call of the Wasatch Stake, which I did on July 17.

For your information, Utahns Inc. is a citizens' organization having as its members the representatives of government agencies, organizations, private firms, and individuals interested in the orderly development of our state's travel and recreation industry. At present its membership totals more than 160 leaders of Utah's travel-recreation industry.

Collectively, and as a general rule, Utahns Inc. is opposed to the replacement or destruction of buildings having unusual historical or architectural value. Comparatively few such buildings still remain in Utah, and we believe the Stake Tabernacle in Heber is one of them. We urge that every possible effort be made to retain this outstanding building, even if modification is necessary to adapt it for contemporary conditions of use.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to preserve this landmark and assure you of our support.

Sincerely,  
MILT JOLLEY,  
President

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Sellers went to Layton on Friday to be guests of Joe and Hazel Orgill. On Saturday they picked raspberries at Bear Lake, attended Stake Conference at Layton on Sunday and enjoyed dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Burton Kinsey at Salt Lake on their way home.

## Early History

(continued from preceeding page)

of Heber to develop this industry, another aspect of this building comes into consideration. Many people each year spend thousands of dollars travelling to Europe to investigate the origins of the Western World and particularly the beginnings of some of the ideas which have been incorporated in this country. Many of the buildings which they go to see are of lesser value and lesser importance to them than this building in Heber which is symbolic not only of the building traditions of this period but also of the thoughts and the aspirations of the Mormon settlers. Naturally when tourists come into this state they are interested in the historical beginning. They visit the Temple Square in Salt Lake City, they visit the Brigham Tabernacle and the tabernacle in St. George and should also be encouraged to visit this building in Heber which is on a par with these other buildings. As good new buildings are erected in Heber, they will only appear to be new and take their proper place as they relate to the older, and they will gain much by the contrast of style and methods as well as to give Heber a sense of history.

IT SHOULD BE pointed out that this building, perhaps, in periods of time should have been better cared for, perhaps it has been allowed to deteriorate more than it should have in the interest of economy (although false economy). Any new building which is subsequently built to serve a similar purpose which is not cared for and which will not receive the proper expenditure of funds for maintenance will deteriorate and come to a point wherein it too will be torn down to make way for later buildings which may not be better or more suitable for their purposes, but which will surely be in a better state of preservation while still new. Funds spent on this fine old structure could correct some of these deficiencies and make it serve well, but we should recognize that any building must be main-

## Give Report of Visitations to "Old Buildings"

On our recent trip abroad the things we enjoyed most were the beautiful old churches, palaces and chateaus. All of these were centuries old, most in a good state of repair and all with an appeal for beauty and past cultures which made them a privilege to view.

Looking at our lovely stone stake house we think it has a beauty and culture that is worthy of preservation for future generations in the hope that our country, the United States of America, while a young nation shall add some grandure and historical value to the visitors of other nations and certainly for our own people. The magnificent architecture of this stone structure created by a past generation of builders who were skilled and patient technicians who must have worked months at chiseling and shaping the stones and months at difficult scaffolding to erect them is surely worth preserving.

Never again will our people take time TO HAND CHISEL and build with such patience.

Now may we quote from the editors who produced the great book, "Splendors of Christendom": "our age knows that if man is unavoidably a religious creature, he is also fundamentally an esthetic creature. The creation and the enjoyment of beauty are well-nigh universal in mankind: from the Lascaux Caves to the Easter Island Carvings, from the pyramids to the Seagram Building, men of all continents have felt impelled to seek and to create beauty. Today, with are much more readily accessible to millions of men and women, we may take comfort in the reassurance that our species gain in the understanding of its long past and that modern man is even more a preserver and a creator than he is said to be a destroyer."

ALYCE ASHTON

## LOCAL & SOCIAL

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harrison enjoyed a wonderful 23 days on an Esther James Tour going by Denver, Kansas, St. Louis, Mo., Charleston, W. Va., Washington, D. C., at Williamsburg, Va., they were shown a film of how our country began in its infancy and traced history of country and LDS Church from there on. They were at Churchill Downs, Ky., Martha Washington's home, Arlington Cemetery, Liberty Bell, Betsy Ross home. At New York they spent three days sightseeing and at the World's Fair. At Independence, Mo., they visited the LDS temple site and the Re-Organized Church. They visited Liberty Jail where films are shown to tell the history and saw the graves of David Whitmore and Oliver Cowdery and were given pamphlets to read. They were among 30,000 people to see the Pageant at the Hill Cumorah. They visited the Sacred Grove on the morning of the wedding anniversary. They enjoyed a ride on the Maid of Mist at Niagara Falls, went into Quebec, Canada and Montreal and had a boat ride from Alexandria Bay down the St. Lawrence River to the Thousand Islands. At Chicago they enjoyed a boat ride on Lake Michigan, down the Chicago River which runs through the town. At Dixon Mounds near Keopuk, Iowa they saw the Indian graves and at Winter Quarters they visited the Mormon Cemetery, saw Boys Town and all in all it was wonderful.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Cardwell Clegg were in town a day from their lodge at Trial Lake. They were looking forward to a visit from their family members: Marjorie Jarrett, husband and children of Berkeley, California, where he is Assistant Dean of Education; Patricia Christiansen and sons, Jon, Christopher and Eric of Los Angeles; Mr. and Mrs. John C. Clegg and family, and Carol C. Johnson and children of Provo who will meet with their parents and brother, Jerry, wife and family who have spent the summer at the Lakes from Oakland, California for a time of visiting, sports and a good time together.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Sylvan Rasband, Mrs. Carma Besendorfer and children, Mrs. and Mrs. F. C. Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Van Wagoner and family, Ruby Jasper and Paul met with the 200 Murdock Family members for a very nice reunion at Vivian Park. The parade and bonfire program were good and the genealogical meeting on Saturday morning in which the families reported their missionaries and Melicent Wells read a tribute to those of the family who had passed away during the year. James Hunter had charge of the reunion. Next year it falls to the Heber Murdock members to have the reunion.

LaVina Johnson and Verna McDonald are home from a very pleasant and interesting 23-day trip on a Chi's Tour to New York to attend the Fair and other places of interest in New York, attended the Pageant at Hill Cumorah, the

Joseph Smith home, Washington, Nauvoo and many interesting and historic places of interest in both President Kennedy, Niagara Falls, LDS and national history.

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HICKEN FEED &  
PRODUCE



State of Utah, County of Salt Lake, City of Salt Lake, ss. I, the undersigned, being a duly qualified and sworn juror, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original as the same appears in the records of the County of Salt Lake, Utah.

old structure could correct some of these deficiencies and make it serve well, but we should recognize that any building must be maintained and the longer they are allowed to deteriorate the more money will be necessary to rectify the damages that have been done and also to modernize some aspects of these buildings in order to best serve their intended purposes.

ALYCE ASHTON  
FLORENCE NIELSON

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The greatest name in bourbon

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MATINEES

- Sat. Sept. 19 — 1 & 5 p.m.
- Sun. Sept. 20 — 2:30 p.m.
- Wed. Sept. 23 — 5:00 p.m.
- Fri. Sept. 25 — 5:00 p.m.
- Sat. Sept. 26 — 1 & 5 p.m.
- Sun. Sept. 27 — 1 & 5 p.m.

Prices Inc. Tax & Fair Adm.  
\$2.75 — \$3.25 — \$3.75 — \$4.25  
• FAMILY BARGAIN •  
Wed. Sept. 23 Only — 5 p.m.  
\$2.75 — \$3.25 — \$3.75  
Gen. Adm. \$1.75 All Shows

For Information Call 322-4814  
MAIL ORDERS: Filled in order of receipt. Send stamped, self-addressed return envelope with remittance to UTAH STATE FAIR, Box 16006, Salt Lake City, Utah.

## DUP Prexy

(continued from preceding page)  
such great sacrifice.

When we of a historic temperament visit the tabernacles in Logan, Brigham City, and Bountiful, a feeling of unusual reverence enters our hearts. The Wasatch Tabernacle gives us the same feeling, and if it is torn down the historic heart of your city will have been destroyed. We therefore plead with you to preserve this perfect example of pioneer building. Leave for the child of tomorrow this tangible evidence that a strong and delightful people built beautifully and well.

KATE B. CARTER  
President,  
Daughters of Utah Pioneers

## GET IN ON THESE FILL-YOUR-FREEZER VALUES!



Bel-air

## Green Beans

Pour and Store Mixed Vegetables  
Cut Corn, Peas and Carrots, Green Peas

2 -lb. pkgs. **49¢**



Libby's

## Fruit Drink

Pineapple-Raspberry, Pineapple-Strawberry,  
Pineapple-Orange, Pineapple-Grapefruit,  
Orange-Lemon, Lemon-Grape, Lemon-Pineapple,  
Fruit Punch, Black Cherry, Orange Drink

12 6-oz. cans **\$1**



Bel-air

## Raspberries

Whole Delicious Raspberries  
Case of 12 — 2.59

4 10-oz. pkgs. **89¢**



Money-Saving Tip:

Check empty space in your freezer facilities . . . and head for Safeway. Plan to fill every available inch with the great frozen food bargains in this event! We are featuring an astonishing variety of fine-quality frozen foods at special savings right now. Whatever you do, don't miss this chance to restock your freezer with food needs for weeks to come. Marvellous values featured in other departments, too.

# FROZEN FOOD SALE



Swanson

## T.V. Dinners

Beef, Chicken, Turkey, Swiss Steak,  
Meat Loaf, Chopped Sirloin, Ham,  
Pork, or Mexican Dinners

11-oz. pkgs. **49¢**



Bel-air

## Cut Corn

Peas, Chopped Spinach, Peas and Carrots,  
Leaf Spinach, Squash, Turnip Greens, Yellow  
Crockneck Squash, or Chopped Broccoli

10-oz. pkgs. **\$1**

Ice Cream **2** -gallon container **2,39**  
All Popular Flavors

Apple Pies **3** 24-oz. pies **\$1**  
Bel-air Cherry or Delicious Peach

French Fries **3** 2-lb. pkgs. **\$1**  
Bel-air Tender Heat 'n Serve

Orange Juice **2** 12-oz. cans **\$1**  
Bel-air Concentrate 4 — 6-oz. cans — \$1

- Sat. Sept. 26 — 1 & 5 p.m.
- Sun. Sept. 27 — 1 & 5 p.m.

Prices Inc. Tax & Fair Adm.  
\$2.75 — \$2.25 — \$2.75 — \$2.25

• **FAMILY BARGAIN** •  
Wed. Sept. 23 Only — 5 p.m.  
\$2.75 — \$2.25 — \$1.75  
Gen. Adm. \$1.75 All Shows

For Information Call 322-4814

MAIL ORDERS: Filled in order of receipt. Send stamped, self-addressed return envelope with remittance to UTAH STATE FAIR, Box 16006, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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KATE B. CARTER  
President,  
Daughters of Utah Pioneers

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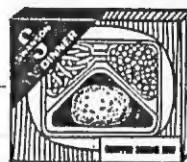
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Enclosed you will find \$.....(\$2 per adult)  
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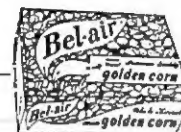
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# FROZEN FOOD SALE



**Swanson**  
**T.V. Dinners**  
Beef, Chicken, Turkey, Swiss Steak,  
Meat Loaf, Chopped Sirloin, Ham,  
Pork, or Mexican Dinners

11-oz. pkg. **49¢**

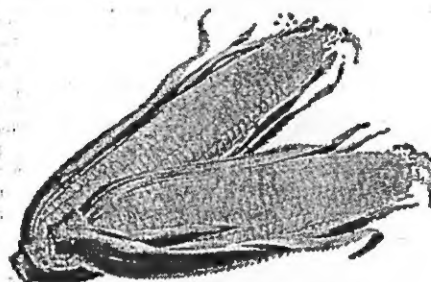


**Bel-air**  
**Cut Corn**  
Peas, Chopped Spinach, Peas and Carrots,  
Leaf Spinach, Squash, Turnip Greens, Yellow  
Crookneck Squash, or Chopped Broccoli

6 10-oz. pkgs. **\$1**

**Bathroom Tissue**  
Valour Economical  
In White, Aqua, Pink or  
Yellow Pastel Colors

10 -roll pkg. **69¢**



**Head & Shoulders**  
**Shampoo**

2.7-oz. tube **89¢**

**Tooth Paste**  
**Crest**

family size **59¢**

**Empress Preserves**  
Apricot, Peach, Pineapple,  
Apricot-Pineapple, Plum,  
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2 20-oz. jars **89¢**

**Local — Sweet**  
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Worm Free — Fresh Harvested  
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**French Fries** Bel-air Tender Heat 'n Serve 3 2-lb. pkgs. **\$1**  
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**Chuck Roast**  
U.S.D.A. Choice Beef — the Roast Your Family Loves  
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**Boneless Pot Roast** English Style U.S.D.A. Choice Beef **69¢**  
**Chuck Steaks** Economical Eating U.S.D.A. Choice Beef **49¢**  
**Rib Steaks** Boneless-Flavorful U.S.D.A. Choice Beef **98¢**  
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# Heber Committee Gains, May Save Tabernacle

Special to The Tribune

**HEBER** — Wasatch LDS Stake's historic Tabernacle, scheduled for destruction to make way for a new, bigger building, can be preserved — if conditions set by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can be met.

**MRS. RUTH WITT**, leading the Committee for the Preservation of the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle, said Wednesday LDS Church officials had offered the building to what it termed "responsible persons" in Heber Valley providing (1) another site could be found for construction of a new stake center and (2) some useful purpose could be found for the old building.

Church estimates had put the cost of renovating the building substantially higher than the cost of a new building, Dr. Everett L. Cooley, director of the Utah State Historical Society, said.

**THE TABERNACLE**, built of red sandstone cut from the hills around Heber and carried by horse-drawn wagons to the site, was built in 1887, Dr. Cooley said. Besides its architectural merits, which are considerable, the building represents "the soul of Heber" and Heber's history, he said.

Last week, the committee circulated a petition in Wasatch County, requesting that the tabernacle be preserved, Mrs. Witt said. They got 1,366 signatures from adults in the county, she said. The population of Wasatch County is 5,308, according to the 1960 census.

**THE NUMBER OF** signatures represents about 25 per cent of the population of the county, Mrs. Witt said, but "we took signatures only from adults."

Tuesday the committee presented the petition to President Hugh B. Brown, First Counselor in the LDS First Presidency.

**PRESIDENT BROWN** took the petition to the church's Finance Committee, which was meeting at the time and the

committee voted that the building could not be kept as a stake tabernacle. But if the Wasatch group could procure property for a new stake center, the committee agreed the church would turn the old building over to responsible persons.

**ORIGINAL PLANS** called for the building to be torn down with contracts to be let Aug. 12. On the request of Mrs. Witt and her committee, church officials granted a 30-day extension, Mrs. Witt said.

Calls for help went out to the Utah Historical Society, Recreation and Parks Commission, Utah Tourist and Publicity Council, Heber City Council, Midway Board of Trustees and the Wasatch County Commission, Mrs. Witt said.

**ALL THESE** organizations, with Dr. Cooley and Mrs. Witt as leaders, worked to convince officials of the need for preserving the building.

"What we wanted to accomplish has been accomplished," Mrs. Witt said.

*Fri. July 9th 1965*  
Church Mulls Offer to Buy

## Heber City Waits Decision On LDS Stake Tabernacle

Special to The Tribune

**HEBER CITY** — The Heber City Council is awaiting a decision from the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to determine ownership of the Wasatch LDS Stake Tabernacle.

A proposal from the LDS First Presidency to lease the Tabernacle to Heber City was countered by a proposal from the councilmen.

### Accept Restrictions

The proposal by the councilmen was to buy outright and obtain title to the historic building but to accept church restrictions on maintenance and use of the building.

J. Harold Call, Wasatch LDS Stake president and his first counselor, Ralph Carlile, made the lease proposal at a Council meeting Tuesday night.

The proposal from the LDS First Presidency involved turning over the tabernacle and grounds to Heber City for 50 years with an option to renew the agreement for another 50 years.

### Church Control

The proposal from the LDS First Presidency also provided for church control over maintenance and use of the buildings to "meet LDS Church standards."

City Councilman Guy McDonald said the Council favored an agreement whereby Heber City would have the title but also would accept LDS Church restrictions on maintenance and use.

Area citizens and historical groups protested the tearing down of the tabernacle to make way for a two-ward stake center.

Much has been written and more has been said about razing the old Wasatch Stake Tabernacle. And all of it has been designed to promote the concept that we should preserve this old building as a monument to our wonderful pioneer ancestors.

Now, I don't know for sure about your pioneer ancestors, but I suspect that they were very much like mine. And mine were hard-headed, practical people who built solidly and built well. The buildings they erected sat on solid foundations and the walls were thick and true.

Nevertheless, they were visionary folk, who appreciated beauty and dreamed dreams. One of the dreams in which they believed most fervently was fabricated from the concept of eternal progression. Their march was ever onward and upward. They placed one foot before the other and left it there only long enough to balance themselves while they lifted the other foot to place it firmly ahead. Their eyes were ever looking beyond and above them. They were not long satisfied with the little log cabins that were their first shelters in Utah. They either added to or tore down and built again, bigger and better.

It was this constant forward movement from knowledge to more knowledge, from truth to greater truth, from edifice to finer edifice, that constitutes the great strength and beauty of their contribution to humanity. It should like to ask, then, which is the nobler tribute to these wonderful pioneers, the buildings that they built, or the concepts they espoused with such fervor, such dignity, such courage?

Already my family has made sacrifices to contribute to the funds that will make a new stake tabernacle possible. Before the building is completed I expect my husband and sons to spend many labor-filled hours to push forward the erection of the building. But

when the times comes that our children or our children's children find the building is no longer adequate for their needs, I hope that they will remember us as a progressive people in the tradition of the pioneers; and that they will lay their hands to the building to tear it down and build again a finer and more beautiful place to serve their needs.

I speak for those who feel that we need the new tabernacle to keep us marching forward, and I speak to you who would preserve the old. Please, do not berate us. Since we cannot have both, we honestly believe that we have chosen the finer way to honor our pioneers. They were progressive, and we believe that they would have us so. We believe that they would glory in the great building program of the Church which is a forward movement of physical, mental and spiritual proportions. We believe that they would have us be a part of it.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Walter H. Seiter

Gets  
action

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ship in the tones of  
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t smell of assuaged  
and freshly washed  
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vy showers and cool brisk  
in October.

### Beauty Acclaimed

But sentiment should take its place with nostalgia in the echoes of the past. The distinctive beauty of the Heber Tabernacle has been ac-claimed by a community that will devote the resources to a cultural center.

The traveler who pauses for a moment at the historic square may learn from a plaque erected by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers that the community was founded in 1859-60 by 13 families called by Brigham Young. Indian raids forced the settlers to build, a fort.

A short distance from the square, Chief Tabby and members of his tribe effected a treaty at the home of Bishop Joseph S. Murdock August 20, 1867. The Tabernacle was completed twenty years later by a community that has contributed distinguished citizens to all walks of life.

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## "A Look at Historic Preservation"

By Louis C. Jones

Does all this fuss and feathers about old buildings that are outdated and have served their original purpose really matter, or is it just an outlet for neurotic antiquarians on the local committee who want to bask in the reflected glory of their pioneer ancestors? In the world of shopping centers, high-speed thruways, and decentralized industries, of what earthly use is the old brick mansion, redolent of yesterday, which occupies the best possible site in town for a gas station? We can't stand in the way of progress, can we?

The answer, of course, is "no". There are times when the house should come down and the gas station should go up. But progress goes from some place to some place, and if we would know where we are and where we are going, we must also keep a few points on the chart to indicate where we have been. Out of this knowledge should come a valuable kind of personal security such as a child is given in a loving home, or such as come to those who find peace in one of the historic religions.

**THE PAST SHOULD HAVE AS MANY** personal ties for each of us as possible, for none should feel that he is floating in time, rootless and unrelated to all that has happened to our fathers and those who lived in our place before us. To feel a part of the progression of mankind is to enter into full citizenship in the race of men. In the framework of the home let there be hand-me-downs from yesterday—pictures and furniture or a piece of lace from the country or the trunk that landed at Ellis Island. Things that have been in a family a long time have a magic of their own, asserting the values of life and its survival.

So it is with each village and city. They, too, need focal points of affection, of the historic community spirit. The variety of these places can and should be numberless, each suited to its own history and people. In a very real sense these should be shrines where the spiritual values of our people are cherished and nourished. In a land where few of us live in the town where we were born there is an ever greater need to create a sense of identity and belonging for those who come from elsewhere. If we have to make this consciously rather than receive it as a birthright, well and good, let us do so as truthfully and skillfully as possible.

**GIVEN A HISTORIC HOUSE THAT HAS** meaning for a specific town, what are we to do? Put back the original furniture, reproduce the wallpaper, train a guide in costume, and do a historically complete job of recreating life as it was once lived? Yes, if we can do that well and also make the house into an active, functioning part of community life, constantly interpreting as many sides of the past as possible in terms the people of today can understand.

And if this is impossible, shall we do nothing? Shall we tear it down and build the gas station? I'm for trying a lot of other possibilities first. Civic organizations or individuals can be encouraged to buy it, making what changes they must, but actually preserving the exterior; there are values for a child on his way to school just in knowing that this house stood on this same site when his great-grandfather was a boy, even if that grandsire lived far across the sea.

**BETWEEN THE FULLY REVITALIZED** historic house, which is currently our ideal, and the preservation of the architectural shell, which is the least we can hope for, there are hundreds of possible compromises any one of which might be the solution for a specific community.

This raises the question of whether bad preservation is better than no preservation at all. Strongly as I believe in scholarly standards of research and veracity of presentation for historic houses—and I consider these of vital importance—yet I must admit that there are times when a holding operation is better than destruction; time itself may produce workable solutions. I can think of a number of historic houses which, twenty years ago, were just being held together physically; a growing public interest and new concepts of historical preservation have made these into vital forces for the best kind of interpretation of community tradition.

**FINALLY, WHAT SHALL WE SAVE?** Frankly, I'm getting a little bored with the lengthening list of handsome residences of the "best people". We need to preserve buildings that speak directly to those of us whose families had calouses, as well as to those who had carriages. It's a fine thing to exhibit the aesthetic best out of the past but it can be equally important to interpret the ways men and women worked and created and played. I want to see more gun shops, millineries schoolhouses, covered bridges, taverns, foundries preserved for our people. Let's speak to Americans in terms that add meaning to their own everyday lives, that place their jobs, their responsibilities as citizens and parents, in historic context so that they see their present problems not as exceptions, but as continuations of the challenges faced by their forefathers.

People need places out of their past which they can see and understand and ultimately love, that symbolize those who lived in these places before them, and struggled and suffered and built there. If those men and women could face and solve their problems, so can we. We need such refuges all over the land, as we need churches and schools, that they may be seedbeds for the cultivation of a vigorous and informed love of country.

## State Park Head Asks Consideration to Save Historic Wasatch Stake Tabernacle

# How Can the St

On July 11, 1964, the Board of Trustees of the Utah State Historical Society - an agency of state government, presided over by a ten-man board appointed by the governor—went on record opposing the demolition of the Wasatch Stakehouse. As director of the Society I was instructed by the Board to work for the preservation of this historic building.

Carrying out this mandate, I have contacted church leaders, political officers, and citizens groups - all of whom have expressed a desire to see the building preserved. Apparently, the citizenry of Heber Valley need to be awakened to their responsibilities and the avenues open to them to save their precious building.

**WITH THE** possible exception of the Puritan settlements of New England, the large scale religious colonization of Utah by the Mormons is unique in all of United States history. At no other place in our country was religion the motivating force which prompted settle-

ment to the extent that it was in Utah.

Heber Valley is typical of the communities resulting from the Mormon dedication to the ideal that man should be permitted to worship according to the dictates of his own conscience.

**THE PRICE OUR** Mormon pioneers paid to put this ideal into practice was a tremendous one - deaths, wanderings, mob violence, isolation, suffering, hunger, and hard work and more hard work. However, the fruits of all this are to be seen around us every day. But perhaps the outstanding symbols representing the idealism, the industry, the greatness of these pioneer forefathers are to be found in the beautiful old churches and stake tabernacles erected by the Mormon. At a price in labor and sacrifice far beyond what we would be willing to pay today, these community founders and builders constructed "tabernacles" to the God they worshipped in a style and of a quality designed to last through



## A PETITION

**WE,** the undersigned, respectfully urge the reconsideration of the decision to demolish the old Wasatch Stakehouse.

Feeling that there are considerations far beyond the mere dollar and cents value being placed on the property and replacement of the beautiful old Stakehouse, we petition those individuals in authority to act to reconsider their decision in the light of other factors, namely:

- (1) That a **restored** stakehouse would serve the religious needs of this valley by offering a suitable chapel for both Wards and the Stake.
- (2) This restoration could be undertaken as economically as the building a chapel for the new 'Stake Center.'
- (3) The **restored** Stakehouse would continue to be the number one architectural attraction of Heber Valley - serving not only the religious needs of the community but serving as a reminder of the accomplishments of a pioneer society which was willing to work and sacrifice for those things held to be sacred and important.
- (4) That should it be absolutely determined that the Stakehouse is unwanted for religious purposes, that other avenues be explored for its preservation such as public donation.

## Architect Seeks Answers to Preserve Wasatch Tabernacle for Historical Value

The old Tabernacle at Heber is a heritage left by a vigorous, resourceful pioneer community. It was built by the hard work and sacrifice of the community members. It constitutes a very real and tangible tie to the past—a bridge between generations. Thru

considerations which have led to the present decision to demolish the building, cannot commend or criticize the answers to the above questions reached by those who are responsible for the building's future.

Because of the circumstances of present ownership and use, the ul-



# How Can the Stakehouse Be Saved?

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generations if not centuries.

UNFORTUNATELY, SOME of us have lost the feeling, the idealism, and maybe even the spirituality of our ancestors. We think not of building for generations or centuries but of buildings to be replaced every few years. Perhaps this thinking is what is wrong with our society today - where so many of our policies and institutions are expediences to be cast aside for new, glistening promises of better things.

Surely, the people of Heber Valley can see in their beautiful old stakehouse the hopes and aspirations, the struggling and sacrifice the idealism of their forefathers who literally carved out of a wilderness area a civilization and institutions which we presently enjoy. Surely the people of Heber Valley are not so unaware of these things that they are going to permit the one outstanding and remaining symbol of all this be torn down to be replaced by some modern glass and steel structure that may be functional but uninspiring. Surely the people of Heber Valley are not so devoid of history, not so unfeeling toward their grandparents, not so unaware of the aesthetic qualities of the beautiful, red sandstone Stakehouse that they want to tear it down.

DO NOT BE GUILTY of the same lethargy and unconcern for what is taking place as were the people of Salt Lake who let the old Salt Lake Theatre, the Social Hall, the old County Court house, and other buildings be demolished; later to have regrets and try to correct the error with replicas.

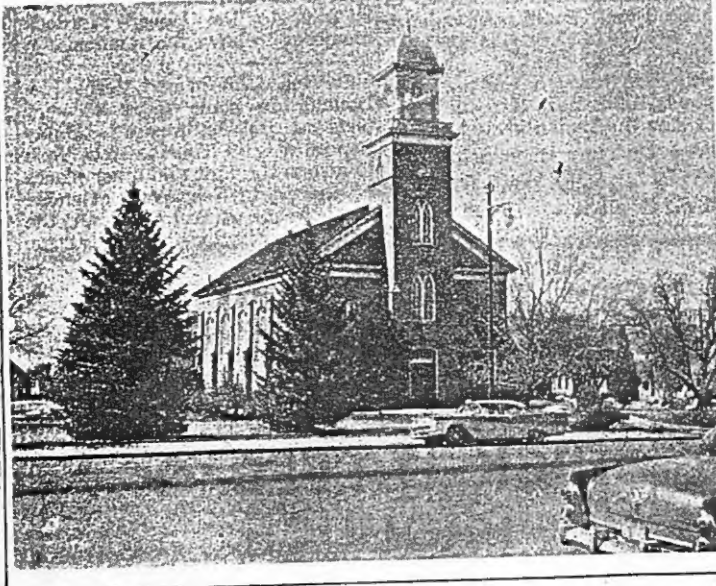
Aside from these enumerated considerations, the people of Heber Valley must be aware of the

economic value of this historic landmark. Tourism is big business throughout the nation - with millions being spent to attract and hold tourists to our scenic spots. Heber is richly endowed with attractions tourists want to enjoy. The Utah Parks and Recreation Commission is spending a major portion of its budget on the development of Wasatch State Park - most of which lies at your doorstep. The Stakehouse is a complement to this development. It gives flavor to your valley. It invites people to stop, look and spend.

THESE CONSIDERATIONS should not be overlooked. Communities and organizations throughout America are capitalizing on tourism. Whole towns have been reconstructed and restored to draw the tourist dollar. The Rockefeller Foundation has spent more than \$73 million on the restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia.

Even the Mormon Church is aware of the value of preservation and restoration. Thousands of dollars have been expended on restoring the Beehive House and dismantling and reconstructing the old Salt Lake City Building - making it the show place on Capitol Hill. In Nauvoo, the Church is committed to a rebuilding and restoration program which will run into the millions of dollars. Surely, to the people of Heber Valley and Utahns generally, the Wasatch Stakehouse holds as much significance.

IN AN INTERVIEW with Stake President J Harold Call, Mr. Call said to me he would be the happiest man in the world if some way could be found to preserve the Stakehouse. Mr. Call expressed the identical sentiment I have found among every group and every in-



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## Stakehouse Is Part Of Utah Pioneer Early History ...

Today, when a great deal of interest is being shown in early American and early Western American History, artifacts, furniture and buildings and other aspects of our heritage, we should be extremely careful with the monuments of this important era. Especially is this true in Utah where that great drama of the Mormon Pioneer was carried forth with the colonization and development of this state over the fifty years from 1847 until the turn of the century. Because of the importance of this Era in our state history, many of the buildings which had been allowed to fall into disrepair or which had been torn down have now been rebuilt and restored at great expense because of the values to be obtained by so doing.

This settlement of the State of Deseret is thought of by many as the last of the Great Western Frontier eras. Of this part of our heritage we are justly proud in the State of Utah.

NOW THAT THE continued existence of the Heber Tabernacle seems to be in jeopardy for economic reasons, it would seem incumbent upon this generation to be very thoughtful and resourceful to see that this monument, this beautiful and picturesque building be

Several expeditions of settlers crossed and recrossed Utah, but it was not until 1856 or 1857 that two men who had climbed the ridge of what was called Bonanza Flats, discovered Heber Valley.

In 1858 it was considered wise by those in authority to appoint scouts to explore this valley for possibilities of settlement. The plan was for them to bring their cattle into Heber Valley in the summer of 1858. With sickle and scythe they were to harvest sufficient wild hay to feed the cattle through the winter of 1858-59. And they did.

27 YEARS AFTER THE first hopeful pioneers entered the valley the need was felt for a Stake Tabernacle and under the leadership of President Abram Hatfield and with hard work and much sacrifice on the part of the members a beautiful edifice was constructed.

The red sandstone was quarried by hand from the mountains east of Heber in Lake Creek and the cost of the building was more than \$30,000.

At the dedication ceremony May 5, 1889, the largest number of people ever congregated in Heber at one time were present. Elder Francis M. Lyman of the Council of the Twelve who was here for the occasion. According to the Wasatch Wave published May 11, there were 1300 persons present with room for 200 more.

CAN ANY SACRIFICE might make to restore this building to its original form and beauty, modified to fit the needs of a modern way of life, compare with the sacrifice the pioneers made